

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 379

Introduced by Assembly Member Evans

February 11, 2005

An act to amend Section 11322.8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 379, as introduced, Evans. CalWORKs.

Existing law requires CalWORKs recipients, unless exempt, to participate in welfare-to-work activities as a condition of eligibility for benefits.

Under existing law adult CalWORKs recipients are required to participate in welfare-to-work for a specified number of hours, and these recipients are required to participate in at least 20 hours each week in core welfare-to-work activities, as defined.

Existing law characterizes certain activities that are included in the scope of activities available in the welfare-to-work program as core activities.

Existing law provides that certain activities that are not specifically characterized as core activities shall count toward the core activity requirement to the extent these activities cannot be accomplished within the additional noncore hours of participation, the county determines the program is likely to lead to self-supporting employment, and the recipient makes satisfactory progress.

This bill would expand the scope of those activities that may be counted toward the core activity requirement to include satisfactory progress in a secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general education development.

This bill would also specify that recipient participation in vocational education and training, secondary school or general educational development, or other activities necessary to assist an individual in obtaining unsubsidized employment shall not make those recipients ineligible to count activities toward the core activity requirement.

Under existing law, each county is required to administer the CalWORKs program and pay for a portion of CalWORKs aid grant and administrative costs. By revising the standards applicable to eligibility for benefits under the CalWORKs program, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law continuously appropriates moneys from the General Fund to defray a portion of county costs under the CalWORKs program.

By expanding the class of individuals who would be eligible to receive benefits under the CalWORKs program, this bill would result in an appropriation.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 11322.8 of the Welfare and Institutions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 11322.8. (a) Unless otherwise exempt, an adult recipient in a
- 4 one-parent assistance unit shall participate in welfare-to-work
- 5 activities for 32 hours each week.
- 6 (b) Unless otherwise exempt, an adult recipient who is an
- 7 unemployed parent, as defined in Section 11201, shall participate
- 8 in at least 35 hours of welfare-to-work activities each week.
- 9 However, both parents in a two-parent assistance unit may
- 10 contribute to the 35 hours if at least one parent meets the federal
- 11 one-parent work requirement applicable on January 1, 1998.

(c) An adult recipient required to participate under subdivision (a) or (b) shall participate for at least 20 hours each week in core welfare-to-work activities. The welfare-to-work activities listed in subdivisions (a) to (j), inclusive, and (m) and (n) of Section 11322.6, are core activities for the purposes of this section. Participation in core activities under subdivision (m) of Section 11322.6 shall be limited to a total of 12 months. Additional hours that the applicant or recipient is required to participate under subdivisions (a) or (b) of this section may be satisfied by any of the welfare-to-work activities described in Section 11322.6 that are consistent with the assessment performed in accordance with Section 11325.4, and included in the individual's welfare-to-work plan, described in Section 11325.21.

(d) Hours spent in activities listed under subdivision (q) of Section 11322.6 shall count toward the core activity requirement in subdivision (c) to the extent that these activities are necessary to enable the individual to participate in core activities and to the extent these activities cannot be accomplished within the additional noncore hours of participation required by subdivision (c).

(e) Hours spent in classroom, laboratory, or internship activities pursuant to subdivisions (k), (l), ~~and~~ (o), and (p) of Section 11322.6 shall count toward the core activity requirement in subdivision (c) to the extent these activities cannot be accomplished within the additional noncore hours of participation, the county determines the program is likely to lead to self-supporting employment, and the recipient makes satisfactory progress. The provisions in paragraph (2), and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3), of subdivision (a) of Section 11325.23 shall apply to participants in these activities.

(f) Spending hours in any or all of the activities specified in subdivision (m), (p), or (r) of Section 11322.6 shall not make a recipient ineligible to count activities toward the core activities requirements of subdivision (d) or (e), as appropriate.

SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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